



# NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

A Research Center for Turf and Field Sports, their History and Social Significance

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Judith Ozment, Librarian

June 1991  
No. 32

## The Winchendon Stud Of The Fourth and Fifth Lords Wharton 1660-1711

Miss F.M. Prior

Buckinghamshire has long been renowned as a breeding ground for thoroughbred horses, at least seven Derby winners having been reared on its heavy clay pastures in the Leighton Buzzard neighborhood alone, while four other winners of the Two Thousand Guineas hail from studs in the same section of the county. Three more came from Lord Astor's famous paddocks at Cliveden in the Thames Valley, where the St. Leger winner Book Law was bred. An impressive number bred within its borders have been successful in one or both of the fillies' classics.

Smaller studs are scattered widespread throughout the North, in fact, a Master of the Whaddon Chase remarked that his Country was so intersected with stud-farms that he was almost afraid to let hounds out for fear of over running some of them.

Quite recently, by a curious chance of fate, there has come to light a book of early manuscripts, probably the earliest now in existence of a famous thoroughbred stud of nearly 300 years ago. From it we learn that for well over a century before the first volume of the *General Stud Book* was published, or even thought of, there existed in Buckinghamshire a collection of "running mares," as they were then termed, some of which are almost certainly the ancestresses of our racehorses today. The stallion was none other than Careless, the maternal grand-sire of Flying Childers and Bartlet's Childers. The latter was the great-grand-sire of Eclipse and consequently appears many times over in the pedigree of every thoroughbred horse in the world.

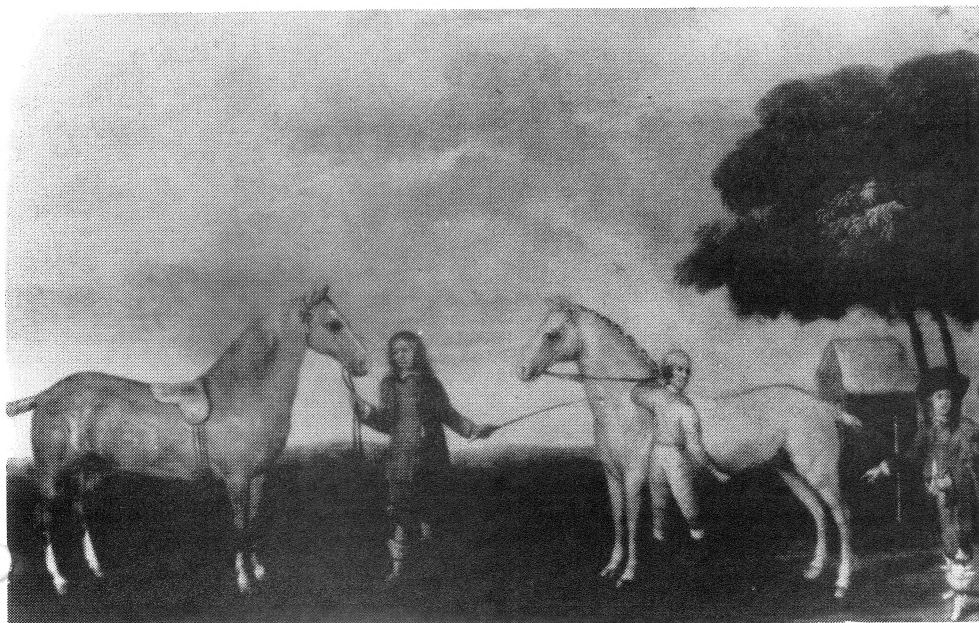
Although the owner's name is never once mentioned throughout the many annual lists unearthed, it has been possible to identify them with complete certainty as relating to the studs of the Lords Wharton, father and son, who kept up a magnificent estate at Upper

Winchendon, off the main Bicesster-Aylesbury road.

The earliest record is dated 1660, the year of the Restoration. The Fourth Lord Wharton was actively concerned with this event, being one of those who went to greet King Charles II at his landing, though history relates that he was later engaged in many of the plots of the period and finally was one of the first to declare for William III.

The mares in this list number ten, and after the manner of those early days, few, if any, bore a name; some small description was given, sufficient to identify them in succeeding lists. Thus there is "the gray Northumberland of fenic," "the sorrell mare I had at Nottingham," "a little beay mare of my breed," "the sorrell mare of my grand-father," and another more fully described as "a large beautiful mare that was called Woodstock, and she was bred by Sir John Fennick."

One has learned from other sources how much the Fenwick blood was esteemed, and Lord Wharton never fails to emphasise it when any of his mares



*Sir John Cotton of Landwade showing his Racehorses to King Charles II on Newmarket Heath is thought to be the first picture painted in England depicting a turf subject. The artist is unknown.*

Reproduced courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London.

possessed the coveted strain. It is recorded in *The Royal Studs of the 16th and 17th Centuries* that the Duke of Newcastle acquired from James D'Arcy in 1703 a sorrell mare by Haut-boy, whose dam was "extraordinary fine, out of Fenwick's breed." While Lord Wharton had high regard for the breed, he was careless with the name, spelling it variously as Fenic, Fenick, Fenick, and finally Phennick.

Fenwick had been Keeper of the Stud at Tutbury previous to the King's exile. Cheny, compiler of the first *Racing Calendar*, credited Sir John with having been sent to the east to acquire for his master those mares known as the Royal Mares. These have since been proved to have been bred in this country, though almost exclusively got by Arabian or Barb sires.

A stallion, nearly always of eastern origin, was kept for Lord Wharton's mares. The first one here recorded was the Spanish horse who sired the five foals in 1660. All the mares were that year covered by "my white Barbe" after which there is a hiatus for several owing to pages missing from the book. The "Colts that fell in May and June 1678 were of the Bay Arab's getting." Another gap occurs until 1682, when again a white Barb was used, he being described as "a very fine horse, and the strongest Barb that has been seen. The Lord of Ossory had him from Tunis, and the Lord of Ormond gave him me, and the Lord Montagu offered 150 pounds for him."



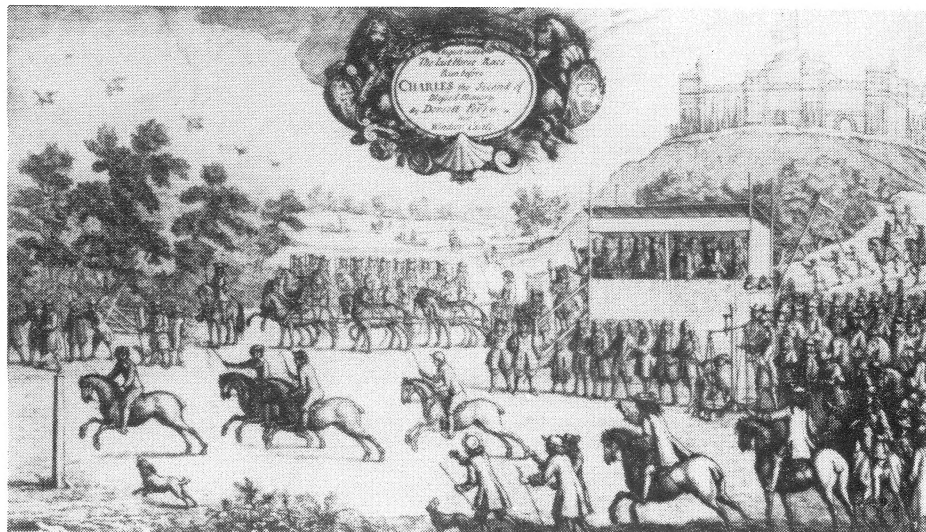
Thomas Wharton, the fifth Lord and first Marquis of Wharton. Engraving after Kneller portrait.

Among the mares detailed the following year are:

"The Sandy Gray Woodstock or Arab mare that came out of old Woodstock and by a gray Arab horse that cost me 100 pounds. Wildboare mare came out of the Wentworth mare and has been an admirable running mare. Tinker came by the best running horse in England."

The next page records that

"I turned the white Ormond Barb loose to all my mares on the 20 of May 1683, and six foals resulted from the ten mares." Next season two of the mares were put to "Mr. Griffin's roan horse" and some of the others to "the Barb that came from the



Francis Barlow engraving, published 1687, of "the last horse race run before Charles the second," by Dorsett Ferry near Windsor Castle, August 24, 1648.

prince of Orange."

Further records —

"Colts that fell in May and June 1686, got by Swallow, a large English horse for which Horse King Charles the Second offered 300 pound"—"a gray Philly, but this Philly was got by the Barb I had from the Lord Dartmouth which I gave to the Earl of Darby."

The next two pages form a complete digression, and are not only of interest, but serve to confirm beyond all question that the manuscript relates to the Wharton's estate at Winchendon, the key words being, Stanhope and The Wilderness, to which the following reference is made.

"I did draw Sr William Stanhope's pond that the Brook runs through, the 10 day of October 1686 and did leave and put into it since 254 good big Carps; The pond in the Wilderness was drawn the 17th of January, 1686 and all the fish were put into the horse pond . . . 75 very great Carp and 174 lesser Carps and 17 Trench."

Another long gap brings us to an undated page, probably 1703, written in two totally different hands and dealing with two mares only; the first in large copper-plate style of a young man, the other quite the reverse.

"A Great dark brown bay mare has a blaze and four white feet was got by the Earl of Scarborough's Spanish horse which cost four hundred pounds, she gallops as high as a Galloway and came out of a Fenwick mare."

Mr. Pullen's mare or chestnut Byerly came out of old Byerly and by Mr. Pullen's Arabian horse, did cost me 50 guineas."

Then follows a list of breeding mares taken October 11, 1704.

"A Chesnut young mare comes three years of age has a little star and a race, I gave Mr. Leeds a hundred pound for her when she was but two years old. She is certainly got by Careless who was never beaten, but has beat all the top running horses in England till no horse would run with him without odds of weight. She has a white heel on her hinder foot."

A fine Chesnut filly got by the Chesnut

Arab that I sold to Sr John Harper, and came of the old Chesnut Fenick, she has a star and a snip.

Bearslyes mare came out of old Woodstock, she is a light bay mare and docked, has a star and one white foot.

Jenny a little fleabitten mare that I used to ride came out of (by) the Barbe I gave to the Earl of Darby.

The Gray Mare got by Swallow has been covered but has not brought a foal these five years. I gave her to my Son."

The mare by Careless, purchased as a two year old from Mr. Leeds for a hundred pounds, made a tremendous impression on Lord Wharton, for he always referred to her as "the Hundred Pound Mare." There is no doubt that indeed 100 pounds in those days was a very high price. In 1705 John Hervey bought from the same breeder a three year old filly, like the other a product of Careless' first season at the stud, together with a two year old colt, also by Careless, and a yearling by Careless and paid 150 pounds for the three.

That Lord Wharton valued Careless as a stallion is evident from his record of 1705, ". . . Bersly mare came out of Woodstock, she was covered this year by Careless the best running horse in England. I gave 3 guineas a leap and sent her to Mr. Leeds 300 miles."

Thomas Wharton had built a private racecourse near Winchendon on the pattern of Newcastle's. It was described as "being a fine level meadow in full view of the mansion house. On the eastern verge of the garden was a small turreted brick building which commanded a fine view of the Quainton meadow, and the adjacent fields for about two miles distant." Some of the best horses in England ran there, and the meetings were brilliant.

Careless was known as the best race horse in England, the best since his sire Spanker, the best until his grandson Flying Childers. Wharton, a Whig, used racing to advance his influence. Lord Macaulay in his *History of England*, said of Wharton and Careless, "Sometimes when, in a distant county, it was fully expected that the horse of a High Church squire would be first on the course, down

came, on the very eve of the race, Wharton's Careless, who had ceased to run at Newmarket merely for want of competitors, or Wharton's Gelding, for whom Lewis the Fourteenth had in vain offered a thousand pistoles."

Careless was defeated only twice, in 1698 carrying 9 stone, (126 lbs.) by King William's Stiff Dick, whose weight was a "feather." He was also bested in 1701 in a match against the Duke of Rutland's Kiloe, after which Wharton refused 700 pounds for him, and returned him to his breeder, Leeds.

A commentary on the prevailing height of racehorses at that time is that a mare of 15 hands was described as "great." Careless himself was but 14.2, which is now the official height for a pony.

All the Winchendon mares were covered by Careless in 1708, the following season he shared duty with the Duke of Newcastle's Arab, but in 1711 all the foals were by Careless, so it is almost certain that he ended his days at Winchendon.

This is the end of the stud's annual records,

but elsewhere written in script are recommendations on the rearing of bloodstock.

*"You ought to make good provision of hay to fodder your mares all winter, and make them a hovel in which they may go to defend against the injury of the weather . . . wean your colts from the mares about St. Martin or a month after Michealmas . . . put both your fillies and colts in a warm house where mangers are put as low as possible . . . take great care that the house be kept very clean and they have good litter . . . there must be good hay and bran, they must also have some oats . . . when it is fair weather let them go abroad in some inclosed place for three or four hours where they may play . . . and by that means they have good bodies."*

On the death of Thomas the fifth Lord Wharton in 1716 the glories of Winchendon soon declined. His son Philip appears to have taken no interest in racing, although it is recorded that he gave a piece of Plate to be run for at Bicester Races in 1721. The stud was dispersed around 1720.

## Notes on The Winchendon Stud Manuscript

A. Mackay-Smith

The preceding article was written by Miss F.M. Prior, for many years compiler of the British *Half-Bred Stud Book*. She was the daughter of C.M. Prior, author of *Early Records of the Thoroughbred Horse* and *The Royal Studs of the 16th and 17th Centuries*. They are among the finest pieces of scholarship ever devoted to these subjects.

Mr. Prior was able to unearth a number of early stud books which are transcribed and included in these two books. Apparently he did not find the manuscript stud book to which Miss Prior's article is devoted.

A copy of The Winchendon Stud was donated to the NSL by the current owner of the Prior's set of the *General Stud Book* in which they had added notes and corrections.

The article is in typescript with a number of erasures and corrections in the manuscript. Miss Prior's name appears at the top of the article but there is no title or date. Most likely written in the early 1950's, it is not known whether it was ever, in fact, published. It is, however of importance to anyone studying the early history of the British race horse.

The Winchendon Estate was acquired by Philip, IV Lord Wharton (1613-1686), upon his marriage to Jane, the only child of Arthur Goodwyn, M.P. The first entry in this manuscript stud book is dated 1660 which makes it one of the earliest such records that has so far come to light. Apparently Lord Wharton was already a breeder—one of the mares listed in 1660 is designated as "of my own breeding."

The stud book consists of lists of mares, their names, color, breeding, foals and the stallions to which they were bred. Unfortunately a number of pages are missing

but there are entries for 1660, 1678, 1682, 1683 and 1686, the latter year being also the year of Lord Philip's death.

The stud book is continued by Thomas, fifth Lord Wharton (1648-1716), whose lists are given for the years 1704-1711. Lord Wharton is famous in racing history for having purchased from Edward Leeds of Milford, North Yorkshire, the great racehorse and stallion Careless, who stood first at Milford and later at Winchendon.

Miss Prior included notes on the condition and history of the Winchendon MS stud book as follows: "Some three or four years ago (c.1950) this old volume was picked up with several others by Mr. L.J. Stratton, himself a Buckinghamshire resident. It is owing to the interest he took in tracing the ownership of the stud, and the permission he kindly gave to reproduce the records, that it is now possible to make them public.

The volume measures about 7" by 10", bound in embossed calf with gold tooling. It is without title, other than the initials written in ink on the flyleaf, "I. of M.C.," together with the date, February 22, 1663. Within the book are engravings of Greek orators, philosophers, etc., these being interleaved with blank pages on which the records of the stud are written. Several pages have been cut out, others obliterated, thus the records for 1661-1678 are lost. The handwriting varies considerably . . . it being the hand of more than two persons."

Additional notes on the Winchendon racecourse, Careless' racing record and progeny by Judith Ozment based on research in the NSL.

## William W. Brainard Jr.

William Walter Brainard Jr. died at his home, 'Vermont,' near Marshall, Virginia, in December 1990 after a long illness. He was a director of the National Sporting Library, and had donated numerous volumes on hunt racing, hound shows, and horse shows to the library. A true sportsman in every sense, he left his mark on many facets of turf and field sports.

During the 1930s when George L. Ohrstrom Sr., (a founder of the NSL) was master of the Fairfield and Westchester Hunt, Mr. Brainard served as whipper-in. He moved to Essex Hunt country and then to Virginia. From 1966 to 1976 he served as master and joint master of the Old Dominion Hunt.

The bloodlines of the hounds he bred, partly with Orange County hunt strains, have been extensively used by other packs in the United States and also in England. Mr. Brainard imported and hunted several couples of the white hounds bred by Sir Alfred Goodson, master of the College Valley Hunt in the north of England. These hounds were frequent winners of pack classes at North American hound shows.

Mr. Brainard served as president and later as chairman of the board of the Virginia Foxhound Club from 1966 to the present. In a very few years, he built the Virginia Foxhound Show, then a show of American hounds, into the largest show of foxhounds in North America. Besides classes for English and Crossbred hounds, he added a division to attract hounds from the smaller packs reporting less than 20 couples of hounds. This show was also the first to offer classes for hunt terriers.

Mr. Brainard served as Virginia representative of the Masters of Foxhounds Association from 1976 to 1979 and as director at large from 1979 to the present. As chairman of the Publications Committee he put into print a number of important articles on hounds and a volume by the American born Isaac (Ikey) Bell, a leader in the 20th century development of the English foxhound.

Mr. Brainard successfully exhibited Fox Terriers and Greyhounds at American Kennel Club shows, many times taking best of show. He was also a noted judge of foxhounds at United States, Canadian and British hound shows. His many judging assignments included best of show at the Westminster Kennel Club, New York. Added to all this, Mr. Brainard was a leading breeder of Angus cattle and served as president of the American Aberdeen Angus Association. Mr. Brainard is survived by his wife, Patsy.

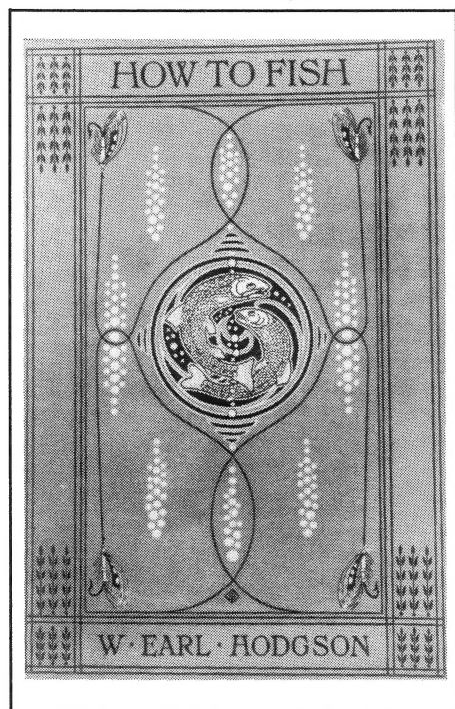
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*The Chronicle of the Horse*



# Decorative Book Covers in the NSL Collection

Judith Ozment

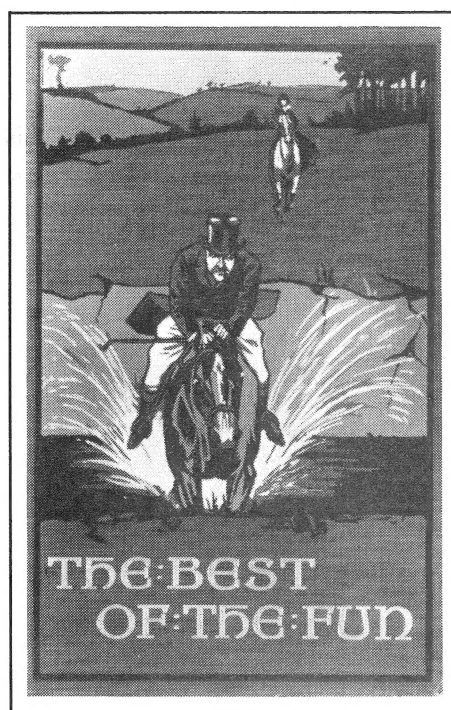
In the late 19th century technology and artistry combined to produce a new form, the decorated book cover. These covers were used as advertisement and were both attractive and attention getting. They had wide appeal for the book owning general public. This type of cover was used exclusively until 1908 or 1909 when the illustrated paper 'dust jacket' caught the fancy of the reading public. The NSL's collection of books bound during this period is a treasured visual record of the bookbinders' art.



Published 1907 in London by Adam and Charles Black, this cover is an example of the art nouveau style popular in the early 20th century. NSL Collection

It was first discovered that gold could be applied to cloth by the diesink method in the 1830s. Originally only straight lines, right angles and geometric designs could be produced by this method; natural forms and freehand styles came later in the 1870s. The publisher would first develop the budget for the production of the book and the designer would work within that limit, deciding the amount of gold, if any, number of colors and the quality of the cloth to be used. Many well known artists including Stanford White, Howard Pyle, Margaret Armstrong, Will Bradley and Frederic Goudy, began their careers designing book covers, some later branched into other fields, while others established their reputations as designers.

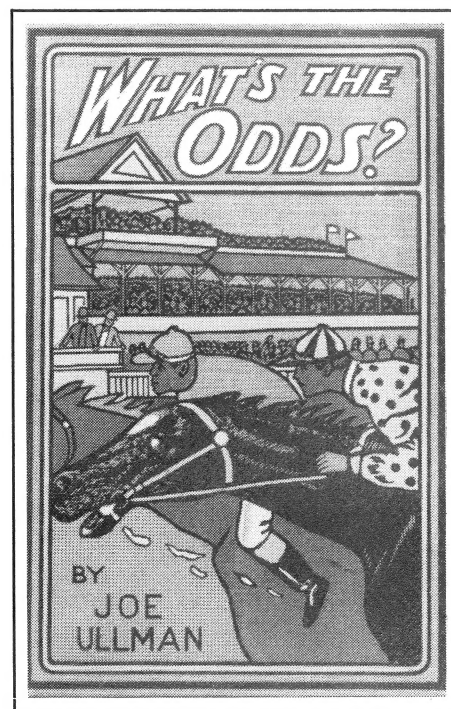
The finished design, after approval by the publisher, went to the diesink makers. They then made the color separations and transferred them to metal stamps. Originally this was done by hand with a steel point tool and then later by photographic means. At first brass and zinc were used for the dies. Steel



The liberal use of gold leaf against the deep red of the cloth cover, creates a striking picture on this 1903 edition.

NSL Collection

was used later on after the transfer technology was improved. Spaces were cut out originally on the stamps by hand with a hammer and chisel; but after the early 1880s this was done with an engraving machine.

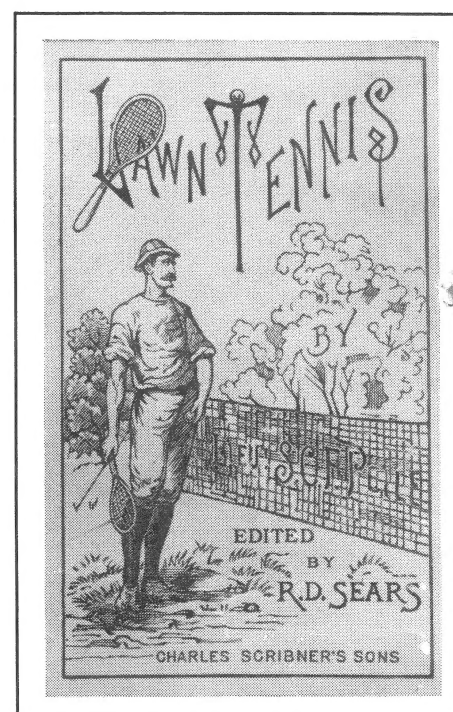


A vivid yellow with white, brown and black was used in this poster-like design set on a tan cloth background. NSL Collection

The machine was described in *Trade Bindings and Their Designers 1880-1915* as being instantly made to rise or fall at the will of the operator. The gold leaf was cut from rolls of gold leaf mounted under full metal cowlings to prevent wind disturbance and the casings then were sent to the blocking press. The gold leaf was sometimes laid on before and sometimes after the inks.

The covers' bright colors and poster-like appearance came about because of the difficulty of mixing graded tones of ink and the development of the poster as an art form.

After the early 1900's the majority of trade books were published with the more economical dust jacket and even less expensive paper covers. Special titles though, such as sporting and travel books, continued to be published with printed cloth covers for a time.



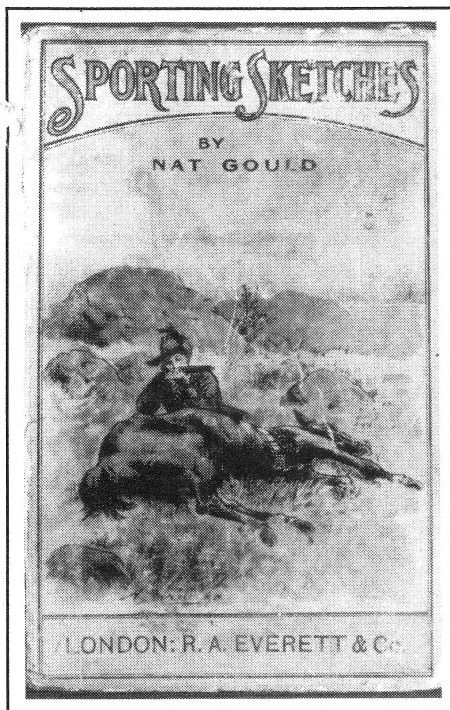
A one color design in black was used on a lightweight, pale red cloth for this 1885 American edition containing the "latest revised laws as played by the best clubs."

NSL Collection

Bound with printed paper covers and offering a wide range of titles, the British railway novels were hugely popular with the public and economically appealing to the publishers. The critics did not agree with the reading public though. The author of *Book-bindings Old and New* caustically remarked, "In England the railway novel is encased in boards sheathed with paper, and this cover is adorned more often than not with a crude and hard illustration of some scene in the story, printed in three colors generally, and

continued





*Sporting novels by popular authors, Australian Nat Gould and others, sold for 2 shillings in paper covers, and contained pages of advertisement. NSL Collection*

## Decorative Book Covers

continued from page 4.

woefully void of art or charm of any sort. Possibly the man who must perforce use the ordinary British railway novels is so demoralized by them that he takes delight in the vulgar pictures on the covers, but surely no man could have found pleasure in anything so grotesquely inartistic."

While all did not merit artistic acclaim, these colorful and lively books brought economic success to their publishers and pleasure to the reading public. The NSL is fortunate to have in the collection many sporting books bound in these various styles.

## Winants Joins NSL Board

The NSL welcomes Peter Winants to the Board of Directors. Winants is currently president of *The Chronicle of the Horse* and was editor from 1977-1987. Before joining the *Chronicle* in 1972, he was a professional photographer in Maryland for 20 years, specializing in portraits of horses for advertising purposes. His subjects included many of the country's best-known Thoroughbred race horses.

Winants has written books on the American steeplechase champions Jay Trump and Flatterer. He particularly enjoys foxhunting and point-to-point racing. In Maryland, Winants hunted with the Elkridge-Harford Hunt for 32 years; since moving to Virginia 19 years ago he has been a regular with the Middleburg Hunt and serves as chairman of his hunt's point-to-point committee.

## 1991 Membership Renewal

All NSL Friends renewals are due in June. If you have already renewed your membership for 1991, we thank you. If you have not renewed, please do so at this time. Your contributions are vital to the support of the programs and services provided by the Library, the maintenance and expansion of the collection and the bi-annual publication and mailing of the NSL Newsletters.

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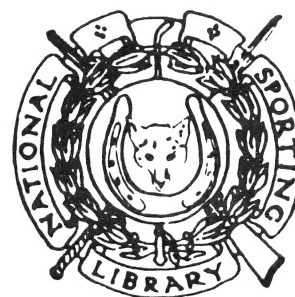
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